



2018 World Agility Open Championships Team USA



Thank you for your interest in joining Team USA for the 2018 World Agility Open Championships that will be held 18-20 May, 2018 at KNHS National Equestrian Centre in Ermelo, Netherlands.

Attendance at the 2017 UKI U.S. Open is mandatory for any handler wishing to try out for the team. This event will be held on November 9 - 12, 2017 in Jacksonville, Florida, and is open to all dogs and handlers. Information regarding this event will be available on the UKI website: www.ukagilityinternational.com and on the US Open website: www.usopenuki.com.

Team applicants must enter the appropriate events at the UKI US Open as well as enter any local Masters heats necessary to qualify for the Masters Final held at the UKI US Open. UKI jump height cutoffs have a greater range than WAO so dogs must be entered in UKI events based upon the equivalent WAO height cutoffs shown here:

WAO Jump Height in mm	WAO Jump Height in Inches	WAO Dog's Height at Withers	UKI Jump Height at Which Dog Must Compete at UKI Open
300	11.81	12.60 inches & under	12 inches
400	15.75	16.14 inches & under	16 inches
525	20.66	19.69 inches & under	20 inches
600	23.62	Any	24 inches

Note: Candidates for the team may not enter any classes at the US Open as an NFC (not for competition) entry.

Included here are the Team USA selection criteria and requirements. Read them carefully. Team USA applications will be accepted between July 1, 2017 and October 1, 2017. Please note that neither points, nor a win-on team spot, can be earned at the US Open unless you have submitted your application by the deadline.

Team USA's mission is to select a squad of handlers and dogs that will be competitive against the rest of the world in all disciplines offered at the WAO. Team USA will consist of three dogs in each of the four jump heights. Additional dogs may be added to the team at the team management's discretion.

Application Fee

The application fee is \$40.00 and is due at the time you submit your application.

100% of the application fee goes towards offsetting the team's expenses.

Dog & Handler Requirements for Application

All dogs and handlers applying for Team USA must meet the following requirements, whether they earn a win-on spot or are selected to the team:

- The dog must have a microchip.
- The dog must have an official WAO measurement and meet the requirements of the WAO height for which the handler is applying. Dogs that do not have an official measurement must be measured by Greg or Laura Derrett at the 2017 UKI US Open at a specific time, which will be announced before the US Open. This

measurement will be your official WAO measurement. If you make the team, you will not have to be measured again at the WAO.

- The handler must be a citizen of the United States or a resident alien, and must hold a U.S. passport that is valid at the time of the team's departure and return. Please note that your passport must be valid for at least 6 months beyond your date of travel and have at minimum two blank pages left inside.
- The handler who runs the dog at the UKI US Open **MUST** be the same handler who ran the dog in the competitions listed on the application form and who will run the dog at the WAO.

Team USA Financial Information

The average cost for a handler and dog to attend the WAO as a part of Team USA is in the \$4000 to \$5000 neighborhood. These expenses typically include (but are not limited to) flight, dog's flight, transfers, vet fees, hotel, ground transportation, meals and uniforms. WAO Team USA is entirely self-funded, and does not receive any direct financial support from any outside organization. WAO Team USA Management will conduct some level of baseline fundraising through team sponsorships and other similar activities. This baseline fundraising will be used to cover the operating expenses of the team, as well as possibly providing a small amount to each of the travelling team members. The team members, once chosen, will have the option to participate in additional fundraising to further help to offset their expenses.

Team USA Policies

If you earn a spot on Team USA, it is important for you to understand the expectations of team management as well as the official team policies:

- The #1 rule for Team USA: Don't do anything stupid! If we all follow this simple rule, we will all be just fine.
- You are responsible for paying for all of your own expenses including (but not limited to) flight, dog's flight, transfers, vet fees, hotel, bus (or other ground transportation), meals, uniforms, and team operating expenses.
- You are responsible for arranging your own transportation to the Netherlands and while at the event.
- Team management will secure lodging for the team. For reasons of organization, communication and general team-iness, it is highly recommended that all team members stay at the selected team hotel. You will be responsible for making a deposit and final payment directly to the hotel.
- Your dog must be in good health and fit to fly at the time of the team's departure. You are solely responsible for obtaining all of the veterinary paperwork that is required to fly internationally and to enter the Netherlands with a dog (see the WAO website).
- You must arrive in the Netherlands by Tuesday, May 15, 2018 and be prepared to participate in all published official days and events at the competition, as well as the unofficial team practice on Wednesday.
- You will remain on site at the WAO during all ceremonies, USA team practices, and scheduled competition hours.
- Start times of walkthroughs and running times are *very* strict at the WAO, and competitors are not allowed to walk or run if they miss their scheduled times. It is your responsibility to follow the schedule each day and be aware of changes in the schedule as they happen. Team management will support you, but they are not responsible for getting you to and from the rings for your walkthroughs and runs.
- You will read the WAO Rule Book and be aware of the differences between WAO and other major organizations.

- You will read the WAO Snooker, Gamblers, and Team Relay briefings that are published prior to the event. Even if you are not initially selected for these events, last minute roster changes can occur and all team members should be prepared.
- You will attend all team meetings and meals scheduled during the trip.
- You will wear the official team uniform in competition at the WAO.
- You will make every effort to participate (at your own expense) in a team practice to be held in late January 2018, at a location to be determined. Only dogs and handlers that qualified for the team will be allowed to work at the team practice.
- You will follow the directions of team management and reply to their inquiries and communications in a timely fashion (2 business days).
- You will abide by all decisions of team management. These decisions are final.
- You will inform team management as soon as you learn of any health or injury concern (to yourself or to your dog) that occurs prior to competition and that may affect your ability to participate in the WAO. This includes making a decision to breed a female dog.
- You will inform the team management of any aggression issues or incidents that either yourself or your dog have had in the past.
- You will support and promote all Team USA sponsors.
- You will support, encourage, and respect fellow team members and management before and during the WAO competition.
- You will participate in team activities with integrity, honesty, and good sportsmanship.
- You will put your dog's needs ahead of your personal desires.
- As a member of Team USA, and a representative of the United States of America, you will always conduct yourself in a positive and respectful manner, both in person and online.

Failure to comply with team policies may result in immediate removal from the team, forfeiting of runs at the WAO, losing monies received by Team USA through fundraising or sponsorship, or being banned from applying for Team USA in future years.

Team Selection Criteria

Three (3) spots in each jump height are “win-on” spots based on points accumulated as described below. Only results from the 12", 16", 20", and 24" height divisions will be used to determine the win-on spots.

WAO Team USA Super Win-On Spots

One handler and dog in each jump height (12", 16", 20", and 24") will earn the WAO Team USA Super Win-On Spot. This spot guarantees the winner entry into all three of the WAO individual events (Biathlon, Games and Individual Pentathlon). The Super Win-On Spot will be earned by the team applicant with the highest cumulative point total from the following events:

- 2017 UKI Cup Event Points
- 2017 UKI US Open Biathlon (Agility, Jumping and Cumulative)
- 2017 UKI US Open Last Chance Master Series Heat (Agility, Jumping and Cumulative)
- 2017 UKI US Open Masters Series Final (Agility, Jumping and Cumulative)
- 2017 UKI US Open Games Challenge (Snooker, Gamblers and Cumulative)
- 2017 UKI US Open National Championship (Semi-Finals and Finals)

The winning dog and handler team must meet the requirements listed in “Dog & Handler Requirements for Application.” If the 1st place finisher does not meet the requirements, or declines the invitation, the next highest placing team applicant will be invited to fill the spot. If that person declines the spot, the invitation will go to the next highest placing team applicant. If that person declines, the spot will not be filled.

WAO Team USA Win-On Spots Two and Three

An additional two dog and handler teams from each jump height (12", 16", 20", and 24") will earn win-on spots to join Team USA. These teams may be selected to run some, or all, of the WAO individual events (Biathlon, Games and Individual Pentathlon), but are NOT guaranteed entry in all three WAO individual events. Win-on spots two and three will be filled by the team applicants earning the next two highest cumulative points totals, behind the Super Win-On Spot winner. The dog and handler teams earning win-on spots two and three must meet the requirements list in “Dog & Handler Requirements for Application.” If either win-on spot winner does not meet the requirements, or declines the invitation, the invitation will go to the next team applicant in order of cumulative points.

Additional Team USA Member Selections

Additional team members may be selected in some, all, or none of the four jump heights (12", 16", 20", and 24") at the discretion of the team selection committee. These additional team members, if any, will be added solely to improve the overall competitiveness of Team USA, and will be determined by the Team USA Selection Committee. The decision will be based 50% on the selection committee’s evaluation of the handler’s and dog’s performance at the 2016 UKI US Open as well as at the major U.S. and international events listed on the application form, and 50% on points earned under the point system described here. Video review, both during and after the event, will be used to evaluate performance.

Team USA Alternate Member Selections

It is anticipated that one or two alternates will be selected in each of the four jump heights. The alternates will be selected using the process described above for additional team members.

Team Selection Points – 2017 UKI Cup Events

The first and second overall placements at each of the five 2017 UKI Cup events will earn team selection points as follows:

First place overall will earn 15 team selection points, second place overall will earn 5 team selection points.

You may attend multiple Cup events, but only your single best placement will earn team selection points

Points are only available to the first and second place finishers at each Cup event. If the first or second place finishers do not tryout for Team USA, the points are NOT available to the next lower placements..

The first place Cup finishers will earn a bye directly into the 2017 UKI National Finals at the US Open, but will have the option to run in the Semi-Finals (round 2) in order to have a chance to earn the team selection points available for this round. The first place Cup finishers will advance to the Finals regardless of the outcome of their Round 2 (semi-finals) run.

2017 UKI Cup Events (info available at the time of document publication)

- South East - FL - (Brilliant Dogs - Sarah Duke) - Jan 7 & 8, 2017
- Eastern - PA - (Mary Ellen Barry) - July 1 & 2, 2017
- West Coast - CA - (Jump N Java - Ivette White & Anne Kajava) - July 29 & 30, 2017
- South West - TX - (Lonestar/EmDogs - Sarah Slaughter & Emily Hurt) Sept 30 & Oct 1, 2017
- MidWest - WI (Think Pawsitive - Katie Oilschlager) - Date TBA

Team Selection Points – 2017 UKI US Open Events

All team selection points for the 2017 UKI US Open events will be based on a difference to the first place finisher in each class. This is being done to more appropriately match the team selection points earned to the actual performance relative to the class winner. Please note that the first place finisher may, or may not, be a team applicant.

- Each event will be given a maximum team selection point value (5, 10 or 20) that will be earned by the first place finisher.
- All team selection points for the remaining applicants will be calculated as the maximum team selection point value less the difference between the applicant's total score and the first place finisher's total score. (Total game points will be used for Snooker and Gamblers, and time plus faults for all other events).
- To further improve the fairness of the team selection points for Gamblers and Snooker, the applicant's placement will also be subtracted in the points calculation (see example below). This allows us to fairly distribute points in the event of a tie in points.
- Points will be given for all placements down to 0 points. Negative points will not be given.
- An elimination in any event will score 0 points, regardless of the difference to the first place finisher.
- Cumulative points cannot be earned with an elimination in one of the rounds of an event.
- Team applicants may participate in the Last Chance Masters Heat to try to earn points even if they have already qualified for the Masters Final. Participation in the Last Chance Masters Heat is encouraged to maximize each applicant's opportunity to earn team selection points
- UKI Cup first place finishers may participate in the UKI National Championship semi-finals (round 2) in order to earn team selection points even though they have already earned a bye into the finals. The first place Cup finishers will advance to the Finals regardless of the outcome of their Round 2 (semi-finals) run.

Team Selection Point Values:

- 2017 UKI US Open Biathlon – Agility
 - First Place = 20 points
 - Remaining Positions = 20 – (Applicant's Time plus Faults – Winner's Time plus Faults)
- 2017 UKI US Open Biathlon – Jumping
 - First Place = 20 points
 - Remaining Positions = 20 – (Applicant's Time plus Faults – Winner's Time plus Faults)

- 2017 UKI US Open Biathlon – Cumulative
 - First Place = 15 points
 - Remaining Positions = 15 – (Applicant’s Total Time plus Faults – Winner’s Total Time plus Faults)
- 2017 UKI US Open Last Chance Master Series Heat – Agility
 - First Place = 10 points
 - Remaining Positions = 10 – (Applicant’s Time plus Faults – Winner’s Time plus Faults)
- 2017 UKI US Open Last Chance Master Series Heat – Jumping
 - First Place = 10 points
 - Remaining Positions = 10 – (Applicant’s Time plus Faults – Winner’s Time plus Faults)
- 2017 UKI US Open Last Chance Master Series Heat – Cumulative
 - First Place = 5 points
 - Remaining Positions = 5 – (Applicant’s Total Time plus Faults – Winner’s Total Time plus Faults)
- 2017 UKI US Open Masters Series Final - Agility
 - First Place = 20 points
 - Remaining Positions = 20 – (Applicant’s Time plus Faults – Winner’s Time plus Faults)
- 2017 UKI US Open Masters Series Final - Jumping
 - First Place = 20 points
 - Remaining Positions = 20 – (Applicant’s Time plus Faults – Winner’s Time plus Faults)
- 2017 UKI US Open Masters Series Final - Cumulative
 - First Place = 15 points
 - Remaining Positions = 15 – (Applicant’s Total Time plus Faults – Winner’s Total Time plus Faults)
- 2017 UKI US Open National Championship - Semi-Finals
 - First Place = 10 points
 - Remaining Positions = 10 – (Applicant’s Time plus Faults – Winner’s Time plus Faults)
- 2017 UKI US Open National Championship - Finals
 - First Place = 25 points
 - Remaining Positions = 25 – (Applicant’s Time plus Faults – Winner’s Time plus Faults)
- 2017 UKI US Open Games Challenge – Snooker
 - First Place = 20 points
 - Remaining Positions = 20 – (Winner’s Score - Applicant’s Score) – (Applicant’s Placement – Winner’s Placement)
- 2017 UKI US Open Games Challenge – Gamblers
 - First Place = 20 points
 - Remaining Positions = 20 – (Winner’s Score - Applicant’s Score) – (Applicant’s Placement - Winner’s Placement)
- 2017 UKI US Open Games Challenge – Cumulative
 - First Place = 15 points
 - Remaining Positions = 10 – (Winner’s Total Score - Applicant’s Total Score) – (Applicant’s Placement - Winner’s Placement)

Examples:

The Biathlon Jumping winner had a time of 35.282 and 0 faults (for a total score of 35.282), earning 20 team selection points. The second place finisher has a time of 34.029 and 5 faults, for a total score of 39.029. The second place finisher will earn 16.253 team selection points // $20 - (39.029 - 35.282) = 16.253$ //

The Gamblers winner scored 72 points, earning 20 team selection points. Second place also scored 72, earning 19 team selection points // $20 - (72 - 72) - (2 - 1) = 19$ //

The Snooker winner scored 51 points, earning 20 team selection points. Fourth place scored 46, earning 12 team selection points // $20 - (51 - 46) - (4 - 1) = 12$ //

About the Event

The World Agility Open Championships (WAO) is an annual international event designed to

- Provide the ultimate in dog agility competition where speed, efficiency, and consistency are all necessary for success.
- Showcase the highest level of agility training, human/canine partnership, and athleticism.
- Acknowledge the dog as an athlete and equally important member of the agility partnership.
- Enable all dogs, whether pedigreed or not, to compete in an environment that is solely focused on the sport of agility.
- Promote the design of better and safer agility equipment, new technology to improve the sport, and better show management processes

The WAO strives to provide jump height divisions where similar types of dogs compete against one another, an excellent competition surface and environment, and several varieties of contests with maximum runs to adequately test teams for all the skill sets necessary to be the best in dog agility.

With that goal in mind, the Individual winners from the 2017 FCI Agility World Championships and 2017 European Open, as well as the 2017 WAO Individual Pentathlon, Biathlon, and Games winners, are automatically eligible for entry to the 2018 WAO even if their country does not submit an entry.

The WAO is the first international agility event created and managed by agility competitors (Greg Derrett and Monica Percival). It is not run under the auspices of any agility organization.

The official language of the WAO is English.

More information about the World Agility Open Championships can be found at www.worldagilityopen.com.



2018 WAO Team USA Application
Entry Opens July 1, 2017
Entry Closes October 1, 2017

WAO jump height (check one): 300 400 525 600

Handler Details

Handler's Name: _____

Address: _____

City/state: _____ Zip code: _____

Cell phone: _____ Home phone: _____

Email: _____

Note: All WAO & Team USA communication is done via email. Please provide an email address that is checked regularly.

Do you have a U.S. passport: Yes Expiration Date: Month ____ Day ____ Year ____

No Are you eligible to get one? Yes No

Name of dog's owner if different from handler: _____

Dog Details

Dog's Call Name: _____ Date of birth: _____ Breed: _____

Gender: Male Female Spayed or neutered: Yes No

List any health issues or injuries your dog has had in the last 2 years as well as any medications your dog is currently taking and why: _____

Does the dog have any history of human or dog aggression? If so, please explain.

By signing below, I agree to abide by all WAO Team USA procedures and policies.

I understand that if I fail to fulfill these commitments, or I fail to comply with team policy, I may be immediately removed from the team and an alternate selected, I may forfeit runs at the WAO, I may lose proceeds from team fundraising, or I may be banned from trying out for Team USA in future years.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Please send application plus a check for \$40 (payable to **WAO Team USA) to:
WAO Team USA
1315 Shadow Lane
Anderson, SC 29625**

All applications must be received between **July 1, 2017 and October 1, 2017**

If you have any questions, please send an email to: waoteamusa@gmail.com